

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A gas bag module, comprising comprising:  
a ring-shaped gas bag (3), which when inflated has a ring-shaped chamber (18) surrounding a central, non-inflated section (15),  
a module covering (9),  
said gas bag (3) being housed in said module so as to be folded around a central spacer piece (23), said spacer piece (23) having a first end in a region of said module covering (9) and a second end facing away from said module covering (9), said spacer piece (23) being fastened to a holding piece (10) at said second end and extending laterally outwards from said second end and towards said module covering,  
wherein that portion of said spacer piece (23) which extends laterally outwards from said second end and towards said module covering (9) includes including a curved outer surface (26) as seen in a section taken in a direction from said holding piece (10) to said module covering (9) covering (9),  
said holding piece (10) having a contact surface (22) for said spacer piece (23), and  
said outer surface (26) projecting laterally from said contact surface (22) running in a continuous, stepless convex shape up to said module covering (9).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The gas bag module according to claim 1,  
~~characterized in that wherein~~, towards said module covering, said outer surface (26)  
has an increasingly less inclination in a laterally outward direction.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The gas bag module according to claim 1,  
~~characterized in that wherein~~ said holding piece (10) has a contact surface (22) for  
said spacer piece (23) and said outer surface (26) ~~projecting~~ projects laterally with  
respect to said contact surface (22) and runs in a convex curved shape.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The gas bag module according to claim 1,  
~~characterized in that wherein~~ said outer surface (26) as a whole runs in a curved  
shape, from an end face of said spacer piece (23) facing said holding piece (10)  
toward an end face at said first end.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The gas bag module according to claim 1,  
~~characterized in that wherein~~ said spacer piece (23) is one of a solid body and ribbed  
body.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) The gas bag module according to claim 1,  
~~characterized in that wherein~~ said module covering (9) is fastened to said spacer  
piece (23).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) The gas bag module according to claim 6 claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said spacer piece (23) extends outwards through a central opening in said module covering (9).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) The gas bag module according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ an emblem (24) of metal is fastened to said first end of said spacer piece (23).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) The gas bag module according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said module covering (9) extends over an end face of said spacer piece (23) at said first end, said module covering (9) having a central section which remains fastened to said spacer piece (23) when said module covering (9) tears open.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) The gas bag module according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said holding piece (10) is a cage surrounding a gas generator (5).